

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

January 2020



JANUARY PROGRAM

VP6R DXpedition

BY: ARNIE, N6HC

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,

San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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From the Prez . . .

Ron, N6XT

Thanks to all those who attended our annual Christmas Party. My thanks to Pat, WA6MHZ and Bud, AE6BH. The word I heard was that everyone enjoyed themselves.

We need 16 volunteers for the registration table at the DX Convention on April 24th and 25th, (Friday and Saturday). Volunteers will work in 3 hour blocks. I will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting.

The club benefits from our taking care of the registration table.

Still a work in progress getting my station set up. I finished my radiation treatments on December 4th, 1999.

I hope you all had a great holiday.

Arnie Shatz, N6HC who was one of the most active operators on the recent VP6R Pitcairn Island DXpedition, will be giving this meeting's presentation. Come one come all.

Ron, N6XT



— HAPPY NEW YEAR —



Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

Meeting Minutes November 27, 2019

At 6:30 P.M. Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ called the meeting to order. 18 members and four guests were in attendance. Our guests were David Lau, KN6AZO (his 1st visit) and Jack Moran, N6FUG (his 2nd visit).

The October Treasurer report and meeting minutes were approved.

The membership voted on and approved a \$1000 donation to the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF).

Announcements: There was a reminder to RSVP for the SDDXC holiday party at sddxc.org.

The Visalia Annual International DX Convention will be held on April 24 - 26, 2020.

At 6:39 P.M. we started the roundtable discussion

At 7:00 P.M. the presentation "Conquering 630m" was given by Randy Standke, KQ6RS.

At 7:53 P.M. The meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

Income for November and December: \$1,180.00 for renewals

Expenses for November and December: \$21.61 for November speaker dinner, \$418.83 for holiday party prizes, \$702.00 club share of holiday party food at Fiddler's Green

Balance on 1/11/2020: \$5,470.74



Randy, KQ6RS

THE SDDXC TOP 10/ Contest Results

By John, K6AM

The TOP 10 and SDDXC Contest Results remain on Christmas vacation.



John, K6AM

January Program

By Pat, WA6MHZ

VP6R DXpedition

By: Arnie, N6HC

Arnie is confirmed for the Program on January 23rd, . This is a big event!!!

SDDXC will be the very FIRST to see the VP6R Program!!!!



“ What is it like to operate radio from one of the most remote places in the entire world...and see history dating back to 1790...to rub shoulders with seventh and eighth generation descendants of the HMS Bounty mutineers? Pitcairn island is a place few people have the privilege of visiting. It was the home and now the resting place of the legendary Tom Christian, VP6TC, who may have been your only ham radio contact with this rare DXCC entity. It was a DXpedition of firsts, including the first EME operation from Pitcairn, the first major DXpedition to schedule contacts with an elementary school amateur radio club station, K6DGE and the first to use exclusively Flex SDR radios with Maestros. Come hear Arnie, N6HC, relate his tale of the VP6R DXpedition to this enchantingly beautiful island.”

Pat, WA6MHZ

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



Digital DXing

First, from the “nostalgia folder”: my first experience with digital DXing was way back in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s. There weren’t nearly as many digital modes available back in the pre-home computing era. Indeed, the dominant (and perhaps only) digital mode (not counting my favorite: CW) was RTTY. The ARRL issued its first DXCC RTTY Awards on November 1, 1976. DXing then, however, was primarily on CW or Phone (AM and, later, SSB). Hams had access to RTTY hardware (primarily retired Teletype machines) for free from the military (fit a student’s budget). (My first digital station used a Teletype Model 15 ASR (ASR stands for “Automatic Send/Receive” - a paper tape reader). The equivalent of today’s



digital encoder/decoder was called a “Terminal Unit”. Mine first saw the light of day as a military piece of gear, an AN/SGC-1A in US Navy terminology. After a lot of hours, I was on the air using RTTY. Here’s a bit of trivia: If you know what the pictured unit to the left is (and what it was used for), simply email me and I’ll print your call prominently in the next edition of the Bulletin.



What is this?

Anyway, I went on to work about a dozen countries on RTTY. Then I had to go back to school and the RTTY hardware gathered dust.

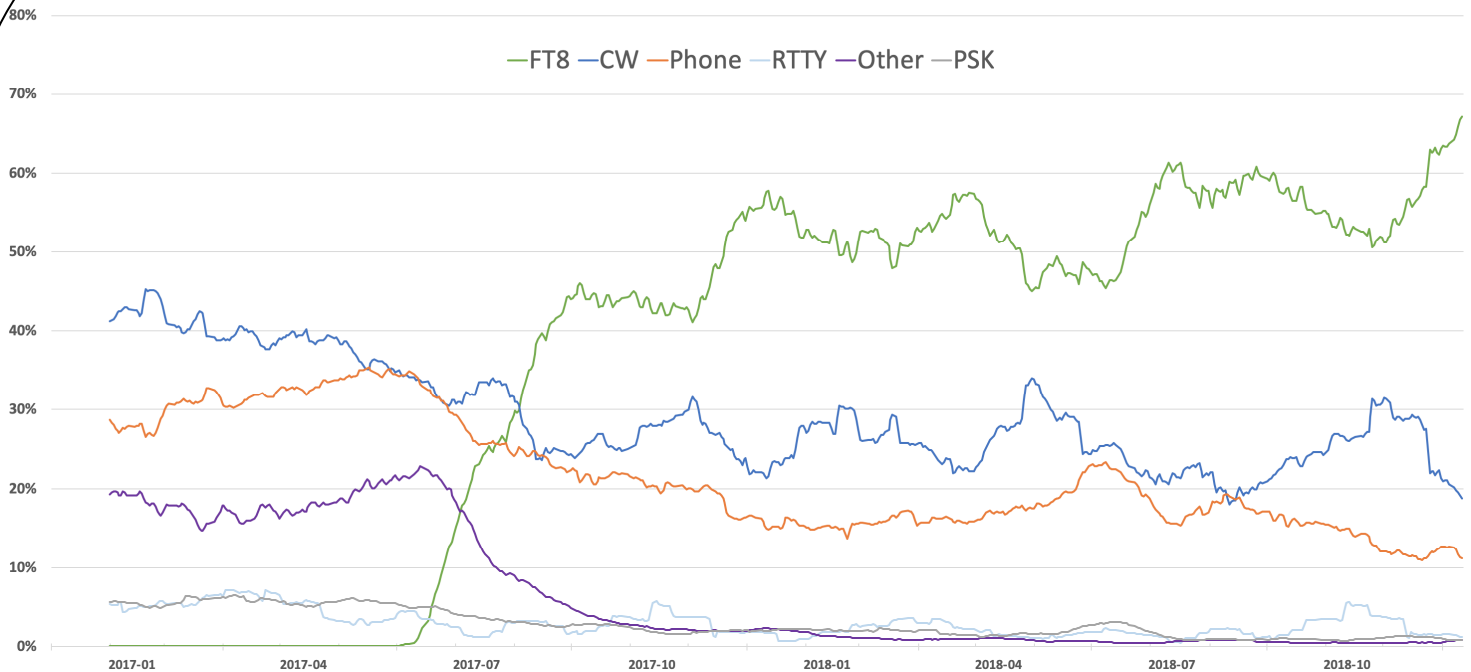
Well, that was then and this is now. How digital DXing has changed!

Among all the digital modes made possible by the use of PCs and software, the mode that has drawn the most DXer-attention is FT8. No history/technical lessons here, just the DX stuff.

Check out the graph at the top of the next page. It appears that FT8 jumped in popularity as a DX mode in about mid-2017. In the span of about 90 days, FT8 eclipsed both CW and SSB as the preferred mode for working DX. Why did that happen? I believe the crummy conditions we’ve enjoyed because of the lack of solar activity coupled with the ubiquity of personal computing made it inevitable.



% Share of Modes Stored in Club Log from 2017 to 2019



And check this out: here is a copy of the Club Log DX Report for the period 2020-01-10 to 2020-01-17. FT8 contacts now appear to be about twice as popular as CW for the period. WOW!

Most active modes

This chart illustrates which modes are being used most heavily during the period of this report.

Mode	% Use	QSOs	Graph
FT8	54.94	278,170	
CW	24.45	123,804	
SSB	10.55	53,411	
FT4	6.46	32,698	
PSK	1.79	9,043	
RTTY	0.50	2,523	
MFSK	0.44	2,216	
FM	0.23	1,178	
WSPR	0.17	843	
OLIVIA	0.16	801	
JT9	0.11	574	
JT65	0.05	229	
SSTV	0.02	77	
All other	0.15	766	

The digital modes are here to stay. FT8 (and its future derivatives) are here to stay. These modes can happily co-exist with SSB and CW as DX modes (and AM to a much lesser degree). But not to worry. Just like today, when I want to make a quick trip to the grocery store, I hop in my Nissan 350Z daily



driver and off I go. When I'm feeling nostalgic, want the wind in my face and the fun that comes with driving a manual 4-speed, I take the Mustang out of the garage.

And when we get around to the future, I'll happily motor to the grocery store in my shiny, new plug-in (actually, I'll probably go online and order my victuals to be delivered by drone).



We enjoy a wealth of modes that are available to us for our DXing. I happen to love CW and plan to use it as long as I can. When driving, I love my 350Z. But on a sunny day, the Mustang gives me great joy. Nostalgia when I want it, the latest technology the rest of the time.



Bob, K9RHY